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TEIS Policy Memorandum #07-014

DATE: December 1, 2007

TO: TEIS District Administrators

FROM: Jamie Thomas Kilpatrick, Director
Office of Early Childhood Programs, Division of Special Education

RE: **Children without Insurance**

The intent of this memorandum is to provide clarification related to children referred to Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) who present at intake without insurance benefits. When assisting parents in completing the intake procedures, we should inform families about the array of services available in Tennessee. TEIS is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to coordinate with other government benefits related to system of payment for necessary early intervention services. Effective February 1, 2008, TennCare and CoverKids applications will be required for these children in order to provide Part C payments for services. Copies of the completed application must be filed with the local TEIS Point of Entry Office before TEIS will serve as the payor of last resort.

Therefore, for children referred without insurance whose families do not complete appropriate government benefit applications (TennCare and CoverKids), TEIS will only provide the services that are federally not subject to a state system of payments: necessary screening, eligibility determination, service coordination and subsequent IFSP development. Additionally, Tennessee has chosen to provide the "core" service of special instruction without subjecting that service to the system of payment provisions.

If you have any additional questions please contact Linda Hartbarger, Part C Coordinator, at linda.hartbarger@state.tn.us or 615-253-5032. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.